



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

**DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
October 14, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. Commissioners Salvatore Bramante, Stephen Penny and Michael Ajello were also present. Agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno made changes to the agenda item 3 in III Executive session, change to reflect "In the Matter of a Complaint by Gary Shaffrick, et al"

Commissioner Castagno moved item 1 in public session to executive session.

Commissioner Castagno added as item 10 to executive session Discussion of the FEC Advisory Opinion by the State Central Democratic Committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2014

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2014

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 24, 2014

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 1, 2014

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 8, 2014

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2014, September 17, 2014, September 24, 2014 and October 1, 2014 meetings. The minutes of the September 16, 2014, September 17, 2014, September 24, 2014 and October 1, 2014 meetings were approved by a vote 4-0. The minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting was approved by a 3-0-1 with Commissioner Ajello abstaining. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi reported that personnel, we have hired a new Staff Attorney to replace Jennifer Montgomery. Ryan Burns will be starting on October 17th in the compliance unit. SEEC has also received approvals at this point for the refill of the vacant IT Manager 1 position. Commission staff is moving forward to refill that position as soon as possible. Also, SEEC has several retirements within our elections officer positions.

Mr. Brandi updated that Lisa Nightingale delivered a bouncing baby boy last week, so she will be out on maternity leave for the next few months. Congratulations to her and her husband.

Mr. Brandi reported that Commission staff is preparing information for the legislature related to the budget for the 16-17 fiscal years. SEEC is compiling that information now through the OGA and will be submitting our budget request shortly. Most of it is on current services basis and SEEC will also be looking at adding certain staff positions over the next two years as it relates to the municipal pilot program which we will be proposed again.

Mr. Brandi advised that Commission staff is in three different meetings this week, today's meeting, Thursday and Friday which are the final grant meetings for this cycle. As of Friday, the grant deadline closed for the submittal of grant applications. We received grants all the way up through Friday and we have a total of 289 grant applications. There are 17 remaining applications on the agenda for this week and staff has been working to get these ready.

Mr. Brandi reported 100 percent participation amongst the statewide candidates for both major parties. Total number of grants for the General Assembly will be 279 which surpasses the number in 2012 of 271. Participation in the program continues to increase. SEEC has expended over 32 million dollars in campaign finance grants so far.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Morna Murray, Glastonbury
File No. 2014-078

This matter was moved to Executive Session as item 11.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Kissell, Hamden
File No. 2012-234
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Dominic Tammaro
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-234. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt within ten days.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-234 upon receipt within ten days. So voted by a vote 4-0. The Findings &

Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Betsey Smith, Portland
File No. 2013-175

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Bernadette Dillon, Pauline J.
Neumann and Athena Neville

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-175. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-175 upon receipt in ten (10) days. So voted by a vote 4-0. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carrie Boron, Hampton
File No. 2014-074

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

James Halloran

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-074. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-074. So voted by a vote 4-0. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

V. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300*

(Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:28 A.M. to enter into executive session. So voted.

Scott Branfuhr, Gilberto Oyola, Patrick Lamb, James Talbert-Slagle, William Smith, Kevin Ahern, Joshua Foley, Michael Brandi, Evelyn Gratacos and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 11:06 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Following a short recess the Commission took the following action:

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Karen A. Murphy, Stamford
File No. 2013-165
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Donna Hemmann, Wethersfield
File No. 2014-058
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Gary Shaffrick, et al
File Nos. 2012-188,194 & 2014-021,087
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced matters and recommended adoption that Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b and § 9-7b-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a motion to authorize investigatory subpoenas to provide evidence relevant for a determination on the allegations of violations relevant to file numbers 2012-188, 2012-194, 2014-041, and 2014-087.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to accept the Proposed Recommendation in File Nos. 2012-188, 2012-194, 2014-041, and 2014-087. So voted by a vote 4-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Leo Canty, Windsor
File No. 2012-077

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Leo Canty, Windsor
File No. 2012-141

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

6. In re: Request to Initiate Investigation Based Upon Findings Regarding
Contributions by Employees of “Matt Smith”

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

7. In re: Request to Initiate Investigation Based Upon Findings Regarding
Contributions by Employees of “Star Distributors”

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Patrick S. Dwyer, Southbury
File No. 2014-049

Reconsideration of Investigation and Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

9. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination
pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and Seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to ten (10) complaints in File Nos.: 2014-113, 2014-114, 2014-115, 2014-116, 2014-117, 2014-118, 2014-119, 2014-120, 2014-121 and 2014-122 and that it is not necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint in File No. 2014-096. So voted by a vote 4-0.

10. Discussion of the FEC Advisory Opinion by the State Central Democratic Committee

No action taken.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Morna Murray, Glastonbury
File No. 2014-078

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Morna Murray

Attorney:

William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 11:13 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is October 16, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.